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- By 12 May 1953 the coke supply situation for plants of the East German mining and smelting industry had become so critical that State Secretary for Mining and Smelting Richard Goschuetz turned to Deputy Minister-President Heinrich Rau with an urgent plea to intervene with East German procurement agencies to obtain coke supplies for the Ministry. The following table shows just how serious the situation has become:

Metallurgical Coke on Hand

	<u>January 1953</u>	<u>10 May 1953</u>
Eisenhuettenkombinat J.W. Stalin, Stalinstadt (Puerstenberg/Oder)	14,208 metric tons	2,826 metric tons
Maxhuetten, Unterwellenborn	23,488 " "	2,511 " "
Mansfeld Kombinat Wilhelm Pieck	4,865 " "	2,843 " "

- Thus, as of 12 May 1953, the Eisenhuettenkombinat had only enough coke for one day's operation, Maxhuetten enough for two days, and Mansfeld sufficient supplies for three days. Imports cannot satisfy the needs of the plants, and continuance of the practice of drawing on the stocks on hand to meet daily production needs can only lead to a disastrous situation. Goschuetz therefore recommended that several furnaces at the Eisenhuettenkombinat and Mansfeld cease operations. He pointed out that on 11 May Maxhuetten received 194.8 metric tons of metallurgical coke, whereas its daily needs amount to about 1,000 metric tons. On 1 June, when Furnance IV at Maxhuetten is ready to be put back into operation, about 1,300 metric tons of coke will be needed per day. The supply situation at Mansfeld is no better than that at the Eisenhuettenkombinat: on 11 May, Mansfeld received 1,077 metric tons of coke; daily needs at Mansfeld, however, amount to 950 to 1,000 metric tons.

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1. The following are the probable consequences of the present coke shortages:
  - a. Insufficient amounts of steel pig will be delivered to East German steel mills, and, as a result, there will be a decrease in production of rolled products of all types.
  - b. It will be impossible to supply foundries with the needed amounts of foundry pig iron and, especially, of hematite.
  - c. When the Mansfeld Kombinat is partially closed down, the Mansfeld power plant will be able to operate only at partial capacity, because blast furnace gas from the low shaft furnaces will be in short supply. As a result, insufficient electricity will be generated for the entire Kombinat, and, after one or two days, copper ore mining will have to be stopped because it will be impossible to store the large amounts of ore mined.
  - d. The smelting plant cement factory at StalinStadt will also have to close down because of the shortage of blast furnace gas.

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